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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**JAMOY STEVENS AND AUDREY PETER CHARGED
WITH FIREARM AND DRUG POSSESSION**

United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins, Gene Hawk, Resident Agent in Charge, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Elton Lewis, Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department and Special Agent Gene Baker of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms announced today the arrests of Jamoy Stevens and Audrey Peter of Sion Farm, St. Croix on November 18, 2005 for firearm and marijuana possession.

These arrests came as a result of team work by the Joint Territorial and Federal agencies that comprise the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force ("HIDTA").

On November 18, 2005, the HIDTA received information that indicated that Jamoy Stevens (age 20) of the Sion Farm area was planning to carry out a crime. Acting on this information, agents and detectives of the HIDTA took Stevens into custody in the Estate Castle Coakley area and obtained a search warrant for his vehicle. During a later search of Stevens' vehicle, the agents recovered approximately one-half pound of marijuana.

Later that same morning, the task force received information that Audrey Peter (age 40), the mother of Jamoy Stevens, was in the process of removing contraband that her son

was storing at their Sion Farm home. A subsequent search by the Task Force of the Sion Farm home revealed ammunition in Stevens' room and fifty-four marijuana plants in the rear of the house. In addition, the task force obtained a search warrant for Peter's vehicle. During this search, law enforcement recovered two loaded firearms, one of which had an obliterated serial number.

Both Stevens and Peter had initial appearances in the District Court of the Virgin Islands. Peter has subsequently been released pending trial. Stevens has been detained pending the outcome of a detention hearing that took place on November 23, 2005.

U.S. Attorney Jenkins emphasized that an arrest and criminal complaint are not evidence of guilt and that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.